

REMARKS

By this paper, claims 17, 28, and 32-37 are canceled, and the status indicator of claims 14-16 and 29-31 has been changed herein from ‘Withdrawn’ to ‘Original’ to reflect the rejoinder of those claims by the Examiner. See *Office Action* at 2. Claims 1-7, 9-16, 18-27, and 29-31 are now pending.

Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested in view of the following remarks. For the convenience and reference of the Examiner, the remarks of the Applicant are presented in the order in which the corresponding issues were raised in the *Office Action*.

Applicant hereby confirms that, further to a phone conversation between the undersigned and the Examiner on 21 August 2007, claims 17, 28, and 32-37 should be canceled, and are hereby canceled. Applicant notes that the *Office Action*, issued the same day on which the aforementioned phone conversation took place, indicates that “Failure to [cancel the noted claims or take other appropriate action] during [the 30 days following the date of the *Office Action*] will be treated as authorization to cancel the noted claims by Examiner’s Amendment and pass the case to issue.” *Office Action* at 2. *Emphasis added*. Notwithstanding, PAIR does not (as of February 11, 2008), show an Examiner’s Amendment, nor indicate that this case has passed to issue. Accordingly, Applicant submits this Amendment for the consideration of the Examiner.

In light of the remarks set forth above, Applicant respectfully submits that entry of this amendment is proper, and that this case is now in condition for allowance.

Finally, Applicant has submitted herewith payment for a 3 month extension of time. Inasmuch as Applicant responded to the Examiner, verbally, within the aforementioned 30 day period however, Applicant believes it is entitled to a refund of such 3 month extension fee payment.

CONCLUSION

In view of the remarks submitted herein, Applicant respectfully submits that each of the pending claims 1-7, 9-16, 18-27, and 29-31 is in condition for allowance. Therefore, reconsideration of the rejections is requested and allowance of those claims is respectfully solicited. In the event that the Examiner finds any remaining impediment to a prompt allowance of this application that could be clarified in a telephonic interview, the Examiner is respectfully requested to initiate the same with the undersigned attorney.

Dated this 21st day of February, 2008.

Respectfully submitted,
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